

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND the claims in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of managing delivery goods using a delivery goods management apparatus for when directly delivering goods from a deliverer to a location associated with a recipient when the recipient is absent from the location, wherein said management apparatus is equipped, at least, with a CPU and a storage containing a deliverer database having deliverer IDs, a user database having user IDs and a delivery goods information database having at least identification information for delivery goods, and is connected with at least one deliverer terminal operated by the deliverer and at least one user terminal operated by a client or the recipient through a network so as to be accessed both by the deliverer and the recipient, said method comprising:

~~receiving, at [[a]]the delivery goods management apparatus, which includes at least a data-storage-containing information regarding a deliverer of goods and a recipient and can also be accessed both by the deliverer and the recipient, a request sent from the deliverer terminal to the user terminal to confirm reception of delivery goods entered by [[a]]the deliverer through the deliverer terminal while when a the recipient of the delivery goods from the location is absent, wherein the request includes a message to confirm as to whether the recipient approves or rejects delivery of the goods by the deliverer to the location;~~

~~extracting using the CPU, recipient information from the storage of the delivery goods management apparatus, where the user database storage stores the recipient information corresponding to information related to the request to confirm reception of the delivery goods, and editing information for the request by referring to the user database and the delivery goods information database; and~~

~~transmitting using the CPU, a notification, from the delivery goods management apparatus, to said recipient of confirmation request information through the user terminal based on the recipient information while the recipient is absent from the location, said method further comprising:~~

~~further-storing information for [[a]]the deliverer corresponding to delivery goods~~

identification information in said storage-deliverer database and receiving the delivery goods identification information and reception approval/refusal information entered by said recipient;

extracting using the CPU, the deliverer information relevant to the delivery goods identification information from said storage-deliverer database; and

notifying using the CPU, said deliverer of the reception approval/refusal information based on the deliverer information, so that the deliverer delivers the goods to the location associated with the recipient while the recipient is absent when a result of the reception approval/refusal information indicates an approval of the delivery of the goods by the recipient and notifying the deliverer to not deliver the goods while the recipient is absent when the result of the reception/refusal information indicates a refusal of the delivery of the goods by the recipient.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The method of managing delivery goods according to claim 1, further comprising:

further storing information for a client corresponding to the delivery goods information in said storage, and extracting the delivery goods information and client information relevant to the delivery goods identification information from said storage; and

notifying said client of the reception approval/refusal information based on the client information.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A delivery goods management apparatus for managing a direct delivery of goods from a deliverer to a location associated with a recipient when the recipient is absent from the location, wherein said management apparatus is equipped at least, with a CPU and a storage containing a deliverer database having deliverer IDs, a user database having user IDs and a delivery goods information database having at least identification information for delivery goods, and is connected with at least one deliverer terminal operated by the deliverer

and at least one user terminal operated by a client or the recipient through a network so as to be accessed both by the deliverer and recipient, comprising:

a storage which stores recipient information corresponding to information related to a request to confirm reception of delivery goods, which includes a message sent from the deliverer terminal to the user terminal to confirm as to whether the recipient approves or rejects delivery of the goods by the deliverer to the location, and also stores information related to [[a]]the deliverer corresponding to the delivery goods information in said storage;

a unit which receives information for the confirmation request entered by [[a]]the deliverer when [[a]]the recipient of the delivery goods is absent from the location, and also receives the delivery goods identification information and reception approval/refusal information entered by said recipient;

a unit which extracts the information entered by said recipient and also extracts, from said storage, the deliverer information relevant to the delivery goods identification information; and

a unit which transmits a notification, from the delivery goods management apparatus, to said recipient of the confirmation request information based on the recipient information while the recipient is absent from the location, and also notifies said deliverer of the reception approval/refusal information based on the deliverer information, so that the deliverer delivers the goods to the location associated with the recipient while the recipient is absent when a result of the reception approval/refusal information indicates an approval of the delivery of the goods by the recipientand notifying the deliverer to not deliver the goods while the recipient is absent when the result of the reception approval/refusal information indicates a refusal of the goods by the recipient.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium which stores a program for making a computer execute a direct delivery of goods from a deliverer to a location associated with a recipient when the recipient is absent from the location, wherein a management apparatus is equipped, at least, with a CPU and a storage containing a deliverer database having deliverer IDs, a user database having user IDs and a delivery goods information database having at least identification information for delivery goods, and is connected with at least one deliverer terminal operated by the deliverer and at least one user

terminal operated by a client or the recipient through a network so as to be accessed both by the deliverer and recipient, said program causing the computer to execute a process:

~~receivereceiving, at [[a]]the delivery goods management apparatus, which includes at least a data storage containing information regarding a deliverer of goods and a recipient and can be accessed both by the deliverer and the recipient; a request to confirm reception of delivery goods at [[a]]the location associated with [[a]]the recipient entered sent by [[a]]the deliverer through the delivery terminal to the recipient when the recipient of the delivery goods is absent from the location, wherein the request includes a message to confirm as to whether the recipient approves or rejects delivery of the goods by the deliverer to the location;~~

~~extract extracting recipient information from the storage of the delivery goods management apparatus, where the user database stores the recipient information corresponding to information related to the request to confirm reception of the delivery goods, and editing information for the request by referring to the user database and the delivery goods information database; and~~

~~transmit transmitting a notification, from the delivery goods management apparatus, to said recipient of the confirmation request information through the user terminal based on the recipient information while the recipient is absent from the location, said computer readable storage medium further making the computer;~~

~~further store storing information for [[a]]the deliverer corresponding to delivery goods identification information in said storage and receive the delivery goods identification information and reception approval/refusal information entered by said recipient;~~

~~extract extracting the deliverer information relevant to the delivery goods identification information from said deliverer database storage; and~~

~~notify notifying said deliverer of the reception approval/refusal information based on the deliverer information, so that the deliverer delivers the goods to the location associated with the recipient when a result of the reception approval/refusal information indicates an approval of the delivery of the goods by the recipient and notifying the deliverer to not deliver the goods while the recipient is absent when the result of the reception approval/refusal information indicates a refusal of the delivery of the goods by the recipient.~~

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium which stores a program according to claim 9, further making the computer:

further store information for a client corresponding to the delivery goods information in said storage, and extract the delivery goods information and client information relevant to the delivery goods identification information from said storage; and

notify said client of the reception approval/refusal information based on the client information.

13. (Currently Amended) A method in a data processing system for managing the direct delivery of an item to a location associated with a receiver-recipient when the recipient is absent from the location, wherein a management apparatus is equipped, at least, with a CPU and a storage containing a deliverer database having deliverer IDs, a user database having user IDs and a delivery goods information database having at least identification information for delivery goods, and is connected with at least one deliverer terminal operated by a deliverer and at least one user terminal operated by a client or the recipient through a network so as to be accessed both by the deliverer and the recipient, said method comprising:

receiving, at [[a]]the delivery goods management apparatus, which includes at least a data storage containing information regarding a deliverer of goods and a recipient and can also be accessed both by the deliverer and the recipient, a request to confirm reception of delivery goods entered by [[a]]the deliverer through the delivery terminal and sent from the deliverer to the recipient when [[a]]the recipient of the delivery goods from the location is absent, wherein the request includes a message to confirm as to whether the recipient approves or rejects delivery of the goods by the deliverer to the location;

extracting recipient information from the storage of the delivery goods management apparatus using the CPU, where the storage-user database stores the recipient information corresponding to information related to the request to confirm reception of the delivery goods, and editing information for the request by referring to the user database and the delivery goods information database;

transmitting a notification using the CPU, from the delivery goods management apparatus, to said recipient of confirmation request information through the user terminal based on the recipient information while the recipient is absent from the location;

further-storing information for [[a]]the deliverer corresponding to delivery goods identification information in said storage-deliverer database and receiving the delivery goods identification information and reception approval/refusal information entered by said recipient;

extracting using the CPU, the information for the deliverer relevant to the delivery goods identification information from said deliverer database; and

notifying said deliverer of the reception approval/refusal information based on the deliverer information using the CPU, so that the deliverer delivers the goods to the location associated with the recipient while the recipient is absent when a result of the reception approval/refusal information indicates an approval of the delivery of the goods by the recipient and notifying the deliverer to not deliver the goods while the recipient is absent when the result of the reception approval/refusal information indicates a refusal of the goods by the recipient.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a data processing system for managing the direct delivery of an item to a location associated with a recipient when the recipient is absent from the location, wherein said management apparatus is equipped, at least with a CPU and a storage containing a deliverer database having deliverer IDs, a user database having user IDs and a delivery goods information database having at least identification information for delivery goods, and is connected with at least one deliverer terminal operated by a deliverer and at least one user terminal operated by a client or recipient through a network so as to be accessed both by the deliverer and the recipient, said method, comprising:

receiving, at [[a]]the delivery goods management apparatus, which includes at least a data-storage-containing information regarding a deliverer of goods and a recipient and can also be accessed both by the deliverer and the recipient, a request sent from the deliverer to the recipient to confirm reception of delivery goods entered by [[a]]the deliverer through the delivery terminal when [[a]]the recipient of the delivery goods from the location is absent, wherein the request includes a message to confirm as to whether the recipient approves or rejects delivery of the goods by the deliverer to the location;

extracting using the CPU, recipient information from the storage of the delivery goods management apparatus, where the storage-user database stores the recipient information corresponding to information related to the request to confirm reception of the delivery goods, and editing information for the request by referring to the user database and the delivery goods information database; [[and]]

transmitting using the CPU, a notification from the delivery goods management apparatus to said recipient of confirmation request information through the user terminal based on the recipient information while the recipient is absent from the location;

further-storing information for [[a]]the deliverer corresponding to delivery goods identification information in said storage-deliverer database and receiving the delivery goods identification information and reception approval/refusal information entered by said recipient;

extracting using the CPU, the deliverer information relevant to the delivery goods identification information from said deliverer database; and

notifying said deliverer of the reception approval/refusal information based on the deliverer information, so that the deliverer delivers the goods to the location associated with the recipient while the recipient is absent when a result of the reception approval/refusal information indicates an approval of the delivery of the goods by the recipient and notifying the deliverer to not deliver the goods while the recipient is absent when the result of the reception approval/refusal information indicates a refusal of the delivery of the goods by the recipient.

15. (Previously Presented) The delivery goods management apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said storage further stores information for a client corresponding to the delivery goods information, said unit which extracts the information entered by said recipient, further extracts the delivery goods information and client information relevant to the delivery goods identification information from said storage; and said unit which notifies said recipient of the confirmation request information further notifies said client of the reception approval/refusal information based on the client information.

16. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

receiving, at an apparatus, which includes at least a CPU and a data storage containing information regarding a deliverer of goods and a recipient and can also be accessed both by the deliverer and the recipient, when the recipient is unavailable at a delivery location associated with the recipient, a request sent from [[a]]the deliverer to the recipient as to whether the recipient approves or rejects delivery of goods to be delivered by the deliverer;

transmitting using the CPU, from the apparatus, a notification to the recipient after receiving the request from the deliverer;

receiving, at the apparatus, a response from the recipient indicating an approval or refusal of the delivery of the goods; and

transmitting using the CPU, from the apparatus to the deliverer, a notification of the response received from the recipient so that the goods are delivered to the delivering-delivery location associated with the recipient by the deliverer while the recipient is unavailable based on [[a]]an affirmative result of the response and the goods are not delivered to the delivery location

by the deliverer based on a negative response while the recipient is unavailable.

17. (Currently Amended) A method executed by at least one computer having a processor, comprising:

transmitting using the processor, a request from a deliverer to a potential recipient who is not present at a location of a good to be delivered, the request requesting for transmission of an affirmative response that the potential recipient ordered the good to be delivered; and

delivering, by the deliverer, of the good for the potential recipient when the potential recipient is not present at the location if the potential recipient transmits using the processor, the affirmative response in return to the request and not delivering, by the deliverer, of the good for the potential recipient when the potential recipient is not present at the location if the potential recipient transmits using the processor, a negative response in return to the request.